

Application No. 10/027,370
Reply to Office Action of December 19, 2005

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of claims:

1. *(Currently amended)* A vehicle monitoring and reservation system usable in a vehicle sharing system, comprising:

a) a terminal for accepting a request to use a vehicle;
b) registering means for registering said users;
c) a designated area for a plurality of users to obtain vehicles from and return vehicles thereto;

d) vehicle monitoring means to monitor the use of a vehicle, the vehicle monitoring means comprising geo-fencing means surrounding the designated area, whereby vehicles contained within, entering, or exiting the designated area can be tracked and accounted for; ~~wherein the designated area includes no hardware for monitoring the vehicle;~~

e) a central computer with computing means responsive to said monitoring means and the user's intended use and past vehicle usage for determining when a vehicle will be available for use at said designated area and memory means for storing registration information of said users from said registering means;

f) communication means responsive to said computing means for communicating the availability of said vehicles; and

g) an information device responsive to said communications means wherein the user is informed of the availability of said vehicles at said designated area and reserves an available vehicle.

2. *(Previously presented)* The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 1 wherein the vehicle monitoring means comprises a GPS receiver means for receiving radio signals from a GPS which indicates the current ground position of a GPS receiver, whereby the current ground position is also the vehicle's current location when the GPS receiver is coupled thereto.

3. *(Previously presented)* The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 1, wherein the terminal for accepting a user request is selected from a group comprising a web site, pager, telephone, or PDA.

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4. *(Previously presented)* The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 1, wherein the information device is selected from a group comprising a web site, pager, telephone, or PDA.

5. *(Previously presented)* The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 2, wherein said communication means communicates the current ground position continuously.

6. *(Canceled)*

7. *(Previously presented)* The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 1 wherein the vehicle monitoring means comprises geo-fencing means of various radii surrounding said designated area, whereby vehicles contained within, entering, or exiting the designated area can be tracked and accounted for.

8. *(Previously presented)* The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 3, wherein the terminal further comprises means for receiving user-input information.

9. *(Previously presented)* The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 8 wherein the vehicle monitoring means further comprises user-input information submitted by the user at said terminal.

10. *(Previously presented)* The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 9, wherein the user-input information comprises information regarding the user's past vehicle usage.

11. *(Previously presented)* The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 9, wherein user-input information comprises information regarding the user's intended destination.

12. *(Previously presented)* The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 9, wherein user-input information comprises information regarding the user's intended duration of use.

13. *(Previously presented)* The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 9, wherein user-input information comprises information regarding the user's intended destination and duration of use.

14. *(Previously presented)* The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 10, wherein the user-input information is recalled by the central computer's memory means when the registered user's personal identification number or password is inputted in said terminal.

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15. *(Previously presented)* The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 9, wherein the terminal for receiving user-input information is a vehicle mounted device.

16. *(Previously presented)* The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 15, wherein the user-input information is contained on a device selected from a group comprising a key fob, personal identification number, password, or identification card.

17. *(Previously presented)* The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 16, wherein the user-input information comprises information regarding the user's past vehicle usage.

18. *(Currently amended)* A vehicle monitoring and reservation system usable in a vehicle sharing system, comprising:

- a) a terminal for accepting a request to use a vehicle and user input information;
- b) registering means for registering said users;
- c) a designated area for a plurality of users to obtain vehicles from and return vehicles thereto;

- d) vehicle monitoring means to monitor the use of a vehicle, the vehicle monitoring means comprising geo-fencing means surrounding the designated area, whereby vehicles contained within, entering, or exiting the designated area can be tracked and accounted for; ~~wherein the designated area includes no hardware for monitoring the vehicle;~~

- e) a central computer with computing means responsive to said monitoring means and the user's intended use and past vehicle usage for determining when a vehicle will be available for use at said designated area and memory means for storing registration information of said users from said registering means;

- f) communication means responsive to said computing means for communicating the availability of said vehicles; and

- g) an information device responsive to said communications means wherein the user is informed of the availability of said vehicles at said designated area and reserves an available vehicle.

19. *(Previously presented)* The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 18, wherein the vehicle monitoring means further comprises:

- a) user-input information.

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20. *(Previously presented)* The vehicle monitoring and reservation system of claim 18, wherein the vehicle monitoring means comprises:

a) geo-fencing means of various radii surrounding said designated area, whereby vehicles contained within, entering, or exiting the designated area can be tracked and accounted for; and

b) user-input information.

21. *(Canceled)*

22. *(Currently amended)* A method for vehicle sharing, comprising:

providing a designated area for a user to obtain a vehicle from and return the vehicle to;

providing a geo-fencing means surrounding the designated area, whereby vehicles contained within, entering, or exiting the designated area can be tracked and accounted for;

~~wherein the designated area includes no hardware for monitoring the vehicle;~~

accepting a request to use a vehicle from the user at a terminal;

receiving user-input information at the terminal;

determining an availability of the vehicle in response to the user's intended use and past vehicle usage; and

communicating the availability of the vehicle to the user through an information device.

23. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 22, wherein the terminal is a website, pager, telephone, or PDA.

24. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 22, wherein the user-input information is a key fob, personal identification number, password, or identification card.

25. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 22, wherein the user-input information includes information regarding the user's intended destination.

26. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 22, wherein the user-input information includes information regarding the user's intended duration of use.

27. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 22, wherein the user-input information includes information regarding the user's intended destination and duration of use.

28. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 22, wherein the information device is a website, pager, telephone, or PDA.